relocation of villages from inside National Parks and Wildlife sanctuaries. This was merged with the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries" in the Xth Plan, however with no corresponding budget enhancement. Hence, it was not possible to allocate the funds to the State from the existing central scheme. The State Government was, therefore, advised to send the proposal to the Planning Commission for possible budgetary allocation in the State Plan.

Poaching of wildlifes

2004. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of tigers, tigresses, cubs, leopards etc. have died/killed in the country during the last one year particularly at Gir Sanctuary;

(b) if so, the number thereof, State-wise, sanctuary-wise and the reasons for their deaths;

(c) the steps being taken for their protection and safety; and

(d) the present number of tigers, leopards, black panthers in the country today?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAYAN MEENA): (a) No reports of large scale deaths of such wild animals during last one year have been received from States. The details of deaths pertaining to wild animals in the Gir, as reported by the State of Gujarat, during last one year (1.4.2005 to 28.2.2006) are as below:

(i) Leopards 46
(ii) Lions 32

(b) State wise details regarding mortality of wild animals collated on the basis of reports received from States during last one year (1.1.2005 to 31.12.2005) are given in the Statement-I (See below).

(c) The steps taken by the Government of India to protect tigers and other wildlife are given in the Statement-ll (See below).

(d) The population of tigers and leopards (including black panthers if any) based on last estimation carried out by States are given in the Statement-Ill.

Statement-I

Details on mortality of Lion, Leopard and Tiger during 1.01.2005 to 1.12.2005 as Reported by States

SI.No.	Name of State	Tiger	Leopard	Lion
1	Uttar Pradesh	1	1	—
2	Maharashtra	4	—	—
3	Madhya Pradesh	5	7	—
4	Rajasthan	1	—	—
5	Uttaranchal	3	9	—
6	Assam	5	6	—
7	Kerala	1	1	—
8	Gujarat	—	46	32
9	Tamil Nadu	—	1	—
10	Andhra Pradesh	—	1	—

Statement-ll

Steps taken by the Government for protection and conservation of tigers and other wildlife

(i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

(ii) Several rare and endangered species of wild animals have been included in the Schedules of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 thereby giving it highest degree of protection.

(iii) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended and made more stringent. The punishment in cases of offences has been enhanced. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that has been used for committing any wild life offence.

(iv) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehended and prosecute wildlife offenders.

(v) Government of India has set up Regional and Sub-regional Offices for wildlife preservation in major export and trade centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wild animals and their products.

(vi) Financial and technical held is provided to the States udner various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, *viz.* Project Tiger, Project Elephant and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.

(vii) A National Wildlife Action Plan 2002--16 was adopted by the Indian Board for Wild Life under the chairmanship of Prime Minister in January 2002. The plan outlines the strategy for conservation and protection of wildlife in the country.

(viii) Government of India is a signatory to many international conventions concerning biodiversity conservation and control of illegal trade in wild flora and fauna.

(ix) Bilateral agreements have been signed with Nepal and Republic of China for controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife.

(x) A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.

(xi) Action has been taken for implanting the urgent recommendation of Tiger Task Force and creation of National Wildlife Crime Control Bureau.

***Statement**-Ill*

Population of Tigers & Leopards as reported by States during last estimation (2001-2002.)

SLNo.	Name of the State	Tiger	Leopard
1	Andhra Pradesh	192	505
2	Arunachal Pradesh	61"	NR
3	Assam	354	248

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Tiger	Leopard
4	Bihar/Jharkhand	110	164
5	Goa/Daman & Diu	5	41
6	Gujarat	0	999
7	Haryana	—	NR
8	Himachal Pradesh	—	NR
9	Jammu & Kashmir	—	7
10	Karnataka	401	NR
11	Kerala	71	NR
12	Madhya Pradesh/Chhattisgarh	937	2206
13	Maharashtra	238	513
14	Manipur	—	NR
15	Meghalaya	47	NR
16	Mizoram	28	NR
17	Nagaland	23^	42
18	Orissa	173	457
19	Rajasthan	58	481
20	Sikkim	NR	NR
21	Tamil Nadu	60	41
22	Tripura	NR	NR
23	UP/Uttaranchal	535	2168
24	West Bengal	349	331
25	Dadar Nagar Haveli	—	NR
26	Andaman & Nicobar	—	NR
	TOTAL:	3642	8203

NR = Not reported. ** = Only for Namdapha Tiger Reserve ^ = Entire State not covered.